

Hot Topics pullout ... and a look at the new Army game

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

August 2002
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Soldiers

**BEST
RANGERS
2002**

**Training an
Afghan Army
Search and
Rescue
Challenge**



Soldiers

August 2002 Volume 57, No. 8



The Official U.S. Army Magazine

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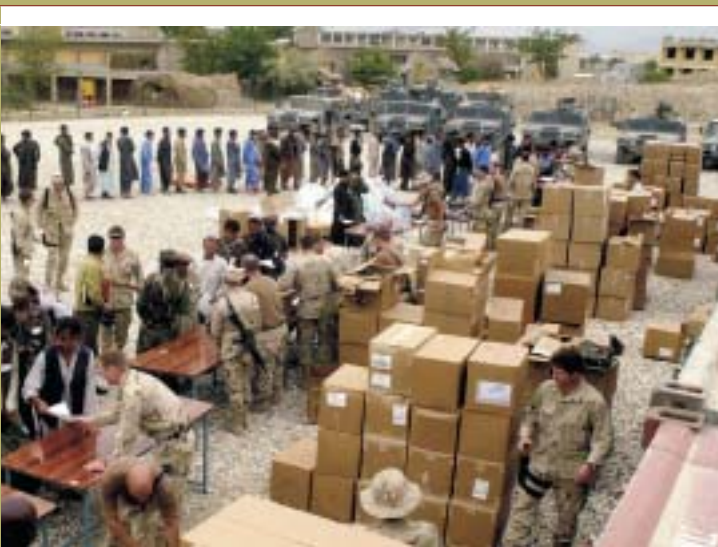


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Front cover:

SGT Benjamin Finklestein climbs the rope to the 60-foot tower during the 2002 Best Ranger competition at Fort Benning, Ga. — Photo by SPC Douglas DeMaio

From the Editor

THE cover of this month's *Soldiers* features SGT Benjamin Finklestein from the 82nd Airborne's 3rd Bn., 325th Inf. Regt., during the annual Best Ranger Competition. SPC Douglas DeMaio was on hand for this year's contest and shows us what it's like to participate in the grueling contest that makes the Iron Man competition look like child's play.

If you like the action and adventure of the rangers, but not the hardship and exertion, then the Army game is for you. Heike Hasenauer profiles "America's Army," what many consider the most realistic military computer game ever created. Available this month, "America's Army" features authentic weapons, equipment, uniforms and units in settings modeled after real-world Army training areas.

From Africa, USAREUR's Art McQueen reports on the Germany-based 720th Ordnance Company's dangerous mission of mercy. "A Hot and Deadly Mission" shows these explosives experts in action after a Nigerian ammunition dump exploded, killing more than 1,000 people.

Next month is the anniversary of one of the most heinous acts ever committed against the United States — the terrorist attack on America. To mark the event, *Soldiers* will publish a special issue that will be a pictorial chronology of events since Sept. 11.

John C. Suttle

Casualty Affairs

FIRST, I want to thank you for the excellent June issue!

Everyone who has seen the article on casualty and memorial affairs here has been truly impressed with the content and quality.

Those of us in the casualty business do work which is often not recognized, except by those whose lives we touch. We are unique in that we are the only people who do this day in and day out for our soldiers and their families. Your piece is a touching tribute to those of us in the business.

Again, thank you for a well written, illustrated and timely article.

*SGM Chris Weinreich
via e-mail*

More on "Beret Blues"

I AM responding to the "Beret Blues" letter in the June Feedback section.

I think that the writer — who said that Reservists should have to wait for their berets until after active-duty soldiers get their second berets — is wrong. Reservists are soldiers, and should not have to wait to get their berets just because they mainly serve one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer.

Some Reservists and Army National Guard soldiers are on full-time active duty now — and berets should be available to them.

No soldier should have to wait to be issued any type of required gear, regardless of

what type of mission, unit or duty he or she is on. After all, we all work on the same team. The last time I checked, it didn't say "National Guard" on my uniform, it said "Army."

*SGT Kathy Sanders
via e-mail*

I ENJOY reading soldiers' viewpoints on various topics, and the letter about the issue of berets for Reservists really got my attention.

I am an AGR soldier in the Tennessee Army Guard and it bothers me that this soldier has decided that just because he is active duty he should come before Reserve and National Guard troops.

Yes, most of our soldiers only wear the berets one weekend a month and two weeks during the summer, but does that make us any less important to the nation?

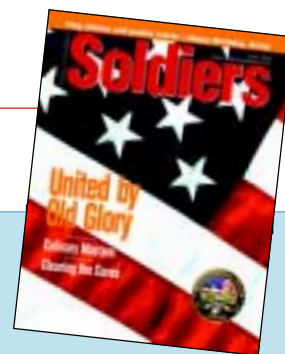
Just a reminder to the individual who made that comment: It was National Guard soldiers that arrived on site at the World Trade Center within hours of the Sept. 11th attack, and it is National Guard members and Reservists guarding our airports and federal buildings.

We are all part of the same team and have just as much right to be wearing our berets along with our active-duty counterparts!

*SGT Daniel L. Schafer
via e-mail*

DOES the author of the June letter really expect us to believe that he doesn't think of Reservists as second-class soldiers? The fact that he suggests one way for a Reservist to obtain a beret is to join an active-duty unit leads me to believe otherwise.

Are we not all part of the



June Kudos

I COMMEND Steve Harding on a job well done for his June article on the High Altitude Aviation Training Site in Eagle, Colo. As webmaster for the Colorado National Guard Web site, I appreciate your allowing us to provide a link to a PDF version of "Learning to Master the Mountains."

*SFC Dave Schmidt
via e-mail*

I WANT to congratulate you on your June issue.

In the past I have argued that the quality of Army publications were below standard. My focus of angst was always layout and graphics (my apologies, but I included *Soldiers* with that).

Your current issue though has been a welcome change. Its graphics are crisp, and the layout is bright and vibrant. I especially liked the added images to highlight the articles (an excellent example is page 4-5 "Culinary Masters").

Another well thought out aspect is that each article and section has a separate theme and style. This really helps in assisting article flow.

Nice work all around.

*Jack Gaines
via e-mail*

same Army? Even though we have different missions, do we all not have the same objective? Don't Reserve and National Guard soldiers have to meet the same uniform

The Reservists in my company are authorized one annual training period (AT) per year and are required to perform 48 multiple unit training assemblies (MUTAs); these are the bare minimum. A majority perform far more duty days than the minimum. Their

Bill A. Basabilbaso
Fort Eustis, Va.

YOUR June article "Star Spangled Manners" was excellent, but there is one more

Here is that 24-star flag for all who asked about it:



Soldiers is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581**, or e-mail: soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.

Thank you for your order!



Date _____



Afghan recruits await the issue of uniforms and equipment by U.S. special forces soldiers at a Kabul training site.

Training an Afghan Army



Story by Gunnery
Sgt. Charles Portman, USMC



SGT Kevin P. Bell

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, are helping train the soldiers who will become the nucleus of the new — and united — Afghan National Army.



SGT Kevin P. Bell

A recruit is measured for a pair of boots using a simple but efficient “size board” that speeds the process.

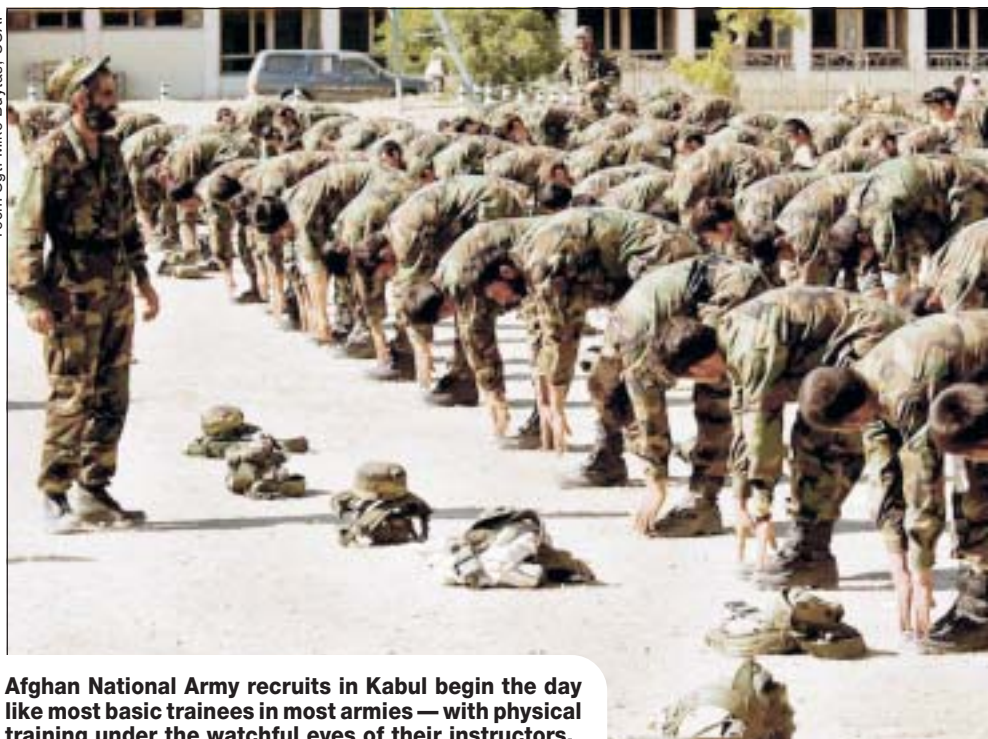
TEACHING Afghan army recruits how to be soldiers may be a new phase in the global war on terrorism, but the Army’s special forces soldiers have long trained foreign troops. And, Army officials say, it’s a skill they’ve mastered.

In recent years Green Berets from the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, have traveled to many remote places around the world, completing missions to free the oppressed, which is what their motto, “De Oppresso Liber,” means.

“This is what we do,” said LTC Kevin M. McDonnell, commander of

Gunnery Sgt. Charles Portman is a member of the U.S. Central Command public affairs team.

Tech. Sgt. Mike Buytas, USAF



Afghan National Army recruits in Kabul begin the day like most basic trainees in most armies — with physical training under the watchful eyes of their instructors.



Tech. Sgt. Mike Buyias, USAF

An Afghan trainee attempting to disassemble an AK-47 while blindfolded gets a helping hand from a special forces soldier.

the unit. “This is one of our core missions, and it’s a privilege to be involved.”

Unified commanders commonly issue orders to U.S. Army special forces to engage in foreign internal defense missions, similar to the current Afghan National Army training mission, to enhance regional stability.

Special forces soldiers conduct FID and unconventional-warfare missions during times of war and peace, McDonnell said. “For most of the U.S. soldiers involved in the training mission, this is the career opportunity of a lifetime.”

In 1996 the battalion was the first U.S. special-operations unit to conduct African Crisis Response Initiative training, a program in which Green Berets worked with various African states to create effective, rapidly deployable peacekeeping units. To date, more than 5,500 African troops have been trained under the program.

More recently, in Operation Focus



Relief, the unit contributed to United Nations peacekeeping operations in several West African countries.

The Focus Relief initiative equipped and trained seven battalions from West African countries to conduct peace-enforcement operations in Sierra Leone. The training ended in December 2001.

Soldiers from McDonnell's unit now are faced with the daunting challenge of developing the nucleus of a national army with recruits representing all of Afghanistan's provinces. The unit is ready to form one new battalion every two weeks if the Afghanistan Interim Authority's recruiting efforts can supply such a demand, McDonnell said. With current resources, training of up to four battalions can take place simultaneously.

"We are perfectly capable of

"We are perfectly capable of handling 2,400 recruits at any given time."

Afghan recruits' AK-47s rest against the wall as their owners attend classroom training at the Kabul site.



Tech. Sgt. Mike Buytas, USAF

Tech. Sgt. Mike Buytas, USAF



Recruits line up to turn in their weapons after training. U.S. special forces soldiers will ultimately train several hundred Afghans.

handling 2,400 recruits at any given time," McDonnell said.

U.S. instructors are also establishing a cadre of commissioned and noncommissioned Afghan officers who eventually will take over the country's military training programs.

Officials worldwide who are watching Afghanistan evolve wonder whether an effective national army can be built with men representing the country's various ethnic groups.

Mohammed Ali, from Kabul, hopes that a new country with a unified army succeeds. He left Afghanistan nine years ago because of poor living conditions, he said. When the interim government was formed and things started getting better, he "decided to join the army, to be trained for our people and to serve with soldiers from all nationalities; with the Pashtuns, Tajiks and the Hazaras.

"I believe that all nationalities in Afghanistan have to come together, because we have suffered," he said.

Special forces instructors are well aware of the trainees' ethnic differences and are working to build a racially unbiased army.

CPT "Slim," an operational detachment team leader using a nickname for security reasons, said the morale of his men is outstanding. His team was among the first to start training Afghan recruits. "To be able to say we were a part of this is extremely exciting," he said.

McDonnell said the training will result in "an Afghan national army capable of providing security to its people and ensuring a stable environment to foster economic development." □

A Patch for Afghanistan's Army

AFGHANISTAN'S National Army has developed an insignia that underscores the latest chapter of their country's military history.

The centerpiece on the 1st Battalion patch is an outline of Afghanistan beneath a fountain pen and crossed rifles. The pen signifies the rewriting of Afghanistan's history and the soldiers' intent to learn and become better educated. The words "God is Great" are embroidered near the top of the patch. Unit identification — 1st Bn., National Army — is inscribed below two sheaves of wheat. Near the bottom of the patch a small black, red and green rectangle replicates the colors of Afghanistan's national flag.

Though guided by their U.S. trainers, Afghan soldiers designed the patch themselves. Faqir Mohommad, a 26-year-old recruit from Qanduz, rendered the first artist's drawing of the patch and solicited input from his fellow soldiers.

Approximately 500 officer and enlisted trainees make up the 1st Battalion, which is being trained at a base camp near Kabul by soldiers from the 1st Bn., 3rd Special Forces Group.

Other battalions that will be formed and take part in the training are expected to use the same patch, but with their own battalion designation.

— MAJ Ralph Mills,
CENTCOM Public
Affairs Office



AMERICA and the War on Terrorism

Operation Noble Eagle

AT press time more than 32,900 Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers were assisting the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and U.S. Customs Service at the Canadian and Mexican borders, and participating in other missions.

On May 31, most National Guard troops ended their airport-security mission.

On June 11, Department of Defense officials announced a competition to choose a design for a memorial to honor those killed in the Sept. 11 Pentagon terror attack.

The outer walls of the Pentagon were repaired by the nine-month anniversary of the attack. A time capsule was placed behind a panel of the facade that was salvaged from the attack. Repairs to the inside of the building are continuing.

Operation Enduring Freedom

On May 23, four soldiers who represented the Army in the 2002 Winter Olympic Games visited troops at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

On May 31, Combined Joint Task Force-180, commanded by LTG Dan K. McNeill, assumed control of operations in Afghanistan. The task force commands U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan, and supporting troops in Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Its headquarters is at Bagram Air Base, near the Afghan capital of Kabul.

On May 31, American and allied Afghan military forces conducting a raid near the village of Khomar Kalay mistakenly fired on other friendly Afghan troops, killing two and wounding three.

On June 6, President George W. Bush said he will ask Congress to create the Department of Homeland Security, a new cabinet-level agency whose sole mission would be to protect the American homeland.

On June 13, a soldier and two airmen were killed and seven service members were injured when their MC-130 special operations aircraft crashed near Gardez, Afghanistan.

Operation Mountain Lion continued through June in the mountains of southeastern Afghanistan. U.S. troops and coalition forces searched caves and tunnels once used by al Qaeda and Taliban forces. — *Compiled from Army News Service, Armed Forces Press Service and DOD Public Affairs releases*

SPC George Allen



COL Frank Wiercinski, commander of the 101st Abn. Div.'s TF Rakkasans, welcomes visiting members of the Army World Class Athlete Program who competed in the 2002 Winter Olympics.

1SG Ken Duppstadt from Company A, 92nd Engineers, holds the Bronze Medal for bobsledding won by SPC Douglas Sharp (right) during the Winter Olympics.

SPC George Allen





SGT Keith D. McGrew

Afghan villagers from Sulamain Khel receive humanitarian aid after the completion of Operation Snow Apache II.



Jim Garamone

Philippine Under Secretary of National Defense Feliciano Gacis welcomes U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz to Manila. Wolfowitz met with the island's leaders and with American service members.

COL Cassel J. Nutter, commander of the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force, is greeted by a teacher during the reopening ceremony at the Sultan Rasia High School for Girls in Kabul, Afghanistan.



SGT Kevin P. Bell

SGT Tom Bradbury



The Stryker interim armored vehicle exits a C-130H at Fort Irwin's Bicycle Lake Army Airfield during a rehearsal for the upcoming Exercise Millennium Challenge.

Fort Irwin, Calif.

Air Force Transports Stryker IAV

IN a joint exercise conducted in June to prepare for the upcoming Army Transformation Experiment, part of Exercise Millennium Challenge at the National Training Center in California, Army and Air Force personnel successfully transported a Stryker infantry carrier vehicle on a C-130H aircraft. The Stryker was loaded at the Barstow-Daggett Airport in Daggett, Calif., then flown to Bicycle Lake Army Airfield at the NTC.

The new Stryker, available in 10 configurations, is a 19-ton, wheeled armored vehicle that can travel at speeds up to 60 miles per hour. In its ICV configuration, the vehicle carries a nine-man infantry squad and two-man crew, and has a remote weapon station with .50-caliber machine gun or 40mm grenade launcher. A key performance parameter

outlined for the new family of Strykers is that they be transportable by C-130, which means the new system can be flown into smaller airfields, said Airman Brent Griffith of the 50th Airlift Squadron in Little Rock, Ark.

This capability is important because it will enable the Army to deploy brigade-sized elements into a combat zone more rapidly than heavy forces are presently deployed, yet with more force than light forces, said Robert Hobbs, program executive officer and ground combat systems liaison officer at Fort Benning, Ga.

The C-130H can safely fly with loads up to 38,000 pounds for up to 1,000 nautical miles. The Stryker, which fit tightly into the aircraft compartment, pushed the C-130H to these limits at 36,240 pounds, Griffith said. The C-130H is not yet an approved standard method for movement of the Stryker, but these tests were a first step in getting full air certification for this method of

movement, he said. — *Army News Service*

Washington, D.C.

Rumsfeld Names WHINSEC Reps

SECRETARY of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has designated six representatives from the academic, business and human-rights communities as members of the first board of visitors to the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, a DOD international professional education center at Fort Benning, Ga.

WHINSEC is accredited by the Department of the Army to conduct Spanish-language classes in humanitarian and peacekeeping operations, focusing specifically on the needs and conditions of Latin American countries.

The board designees join members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees and other DOD and State Department representatives. Their task, as required by the Floyd Spence National Defense Authorization Act of 2001, is to oversee curriculum, fiscal affairs and teaching methods of WHINSEC, and to report their observations and recommendations to the secretary. — *DefenseLink News*

Alexandria, Va.

AFRC Resorts Open During Construction

THE Department of Defense started construction in May to expand and improve two of its most popular Armed Forces Recreation Centers, one in Germany and one in Florida.

Career News

Become a Recruiter

THE rewards for recruiters are many. Under the New Assignment Incentive Program, volunteers have a greater choice of duty locations by selecting three companies within the U.S. Army Recruiting Command as their preferred assignments. Additionally, top performers can earn the recruiter badge, which has positive impact on future promotions, and sergeants and staff sergeants in promotable status who earn the recruiter ring during their 36-month tours are eligible for meritorious promotions. Recruiters also receive \$375 per month in special-duty pay upon assignment to a recruiting battalion, while receiving up to \$75 per month for expenses.

For a personal interview call SFC Larry D. Luden at (502) 626-0457 or (DSN 536-0457), or send an e-mail to rtr-team@usarec.army.mil. — *USAREC PAO*

For more information visit:
www.usarec.army.mil/hq/recruiter



The new 330-room hotel and conference center in Garmisch, Germany, which opens in fall 2004, replaces the World War II-era hotels in Garmisch and Chiemsee. The hotel will include a ballroom, two restaurants, a bistro and a swimming pool.

In Orlando, Fla., officials broke ground on a \$94 million project that will double the number of guestrooms and add new amenities to Shades of Green at Walt Disney World Resort. The construction will bring the number of guestrooms to 587 and add a multi-level, covered parking garage, a ballroom, banquet capability and two new restaurants.

No taxpayer or soldier dollars are being used for either construction, officials said, and guests are still welcome at both recreation centers while the expansion projects are under way.

Work at the new hotel in Germany does not affect the operation of the existing Patton and Von Steuben hotels in Garmisch, or the Lake and Park hotels in Chiemsee. For information and reservations, visit AFRC Europe online at www.afrceurope.com.

While Shades of Green is closed during the construction, guests holding reservations since April 31 are being accommodated at a Disney hotel on the grounds or in other local hotels if there is 100 percent occupancy at the Disney resort. Shades of Green staff will also continue to operate a ticket office where DOD ID cardholders can purchase discounted tickets to Disney and other local attractions. For more information, visit www.armymwr.com/Travel/Armed Forces Rec Centers. — *U.S. Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs Office*



The construction of new AFRC resorts in Garmisch, Germany, (above) and Orlando, Fla., will mean better service for military vacationers visiting these popular sites.

Fort Hood, Texas

MPs Return From Cuba

FORTY-three soldiers of the 89th Military Police Brigade and other Fort Hood units returned to their home post in May after spending two months at the U.S. facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where they had supported Joint Task Force 160.

The soldiers' mission was

to support day-to-day operations of Camp Delta and Camp X-ray, said brigade assistant operations officer CPT Omar Lomas.

The base at Guantanamo Bay is the temporary holding facility for al-Qaeda, Taliban and other detainees who have come under U.S. control during the war on terrorism. JTF-160 provides security for the al-Qaeda detainees under U.S. control.

The Fort Hood soldiers

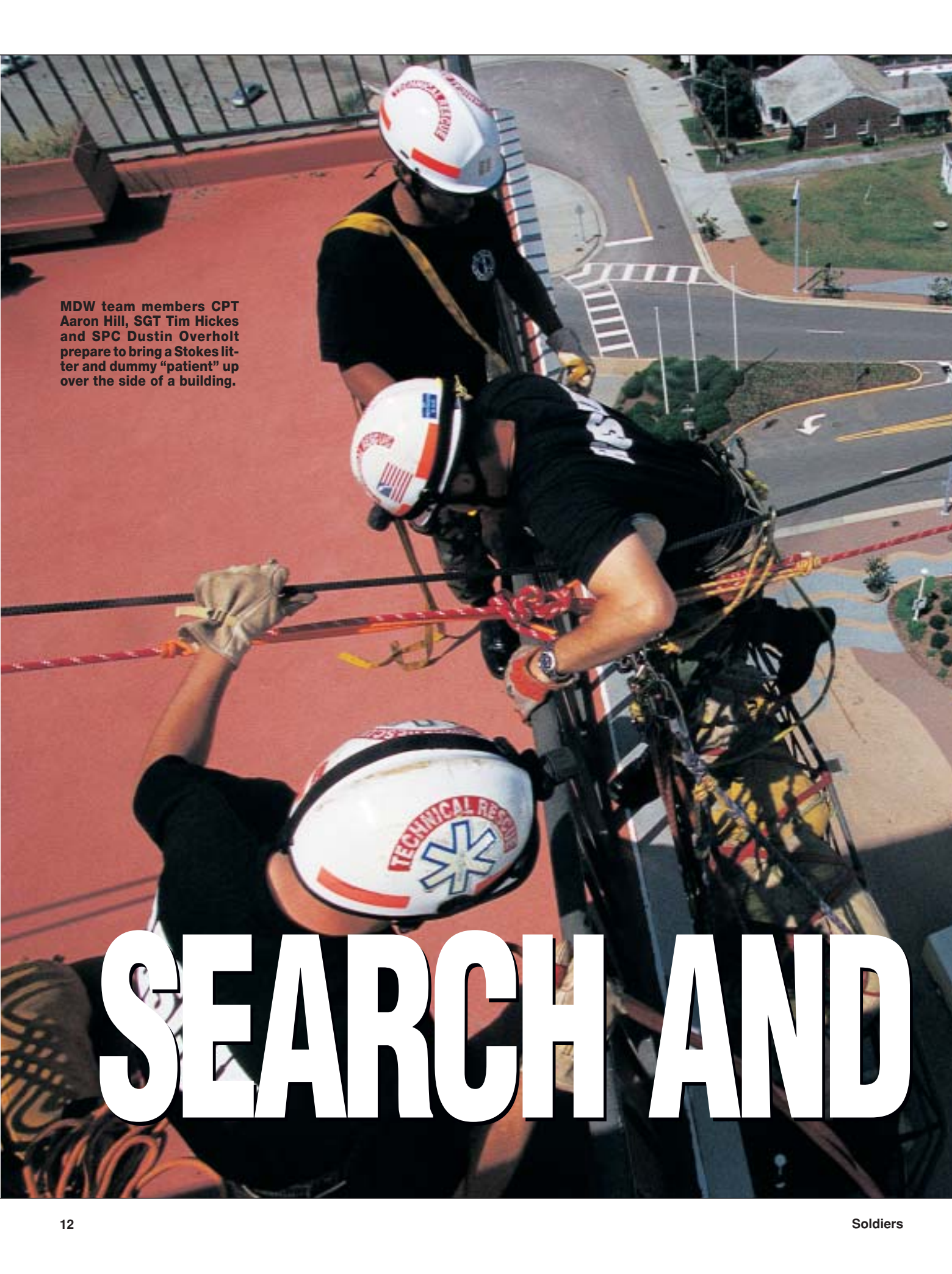
were relieved in Cuba by the 43rd MP Bde., a mobilized National Guard unit from Warwick, R.I. — *89th MP Bde. PAO*



Timothy A. Boone (above) holds a sign welcoming home his father, SPC Phillip A. Boone, a member of the 401st MP Co.


SGT Neng Lo (left) embraces his children, Brandon and Lexi, following the ceremony for soldiers returning from Cuba.

PFC Jason Phillips (both)

A high-angle, vertical photograph showing three military medical personnel rappelling down the side of a red building. They are wearing white helmets with "TECHNICAL RESCUE" and a blue Star of Life emblem, black t-shirts, and full rappelling gear including ropes and harnesses. The person at the bottom is reaching up to assist the middle person. The background shows a residential street with houses and a road.

MDW team members CPT Aaron Hill, SGT Tim Hickes and SPC Dustin Overholt prepare to bring a Stokes litter and dummy "patient" up over the side of a building.

SEARCH AND



A recent exercise tested the rescue skills of the Military District of Washington's Engineer Company.



SGT Tim Hickes crosses between two apartment buildings during the early part of Rescue Challenge. The exercise drew teams from throughout Virginia.

Story by SPC Jonathan Wiley
Photos by Paul Disney

MEMBERS of the Army's only technical rescue team — the Military District of Washington Engineer Company — tested their skills during a search-and-rescue exercise in May.

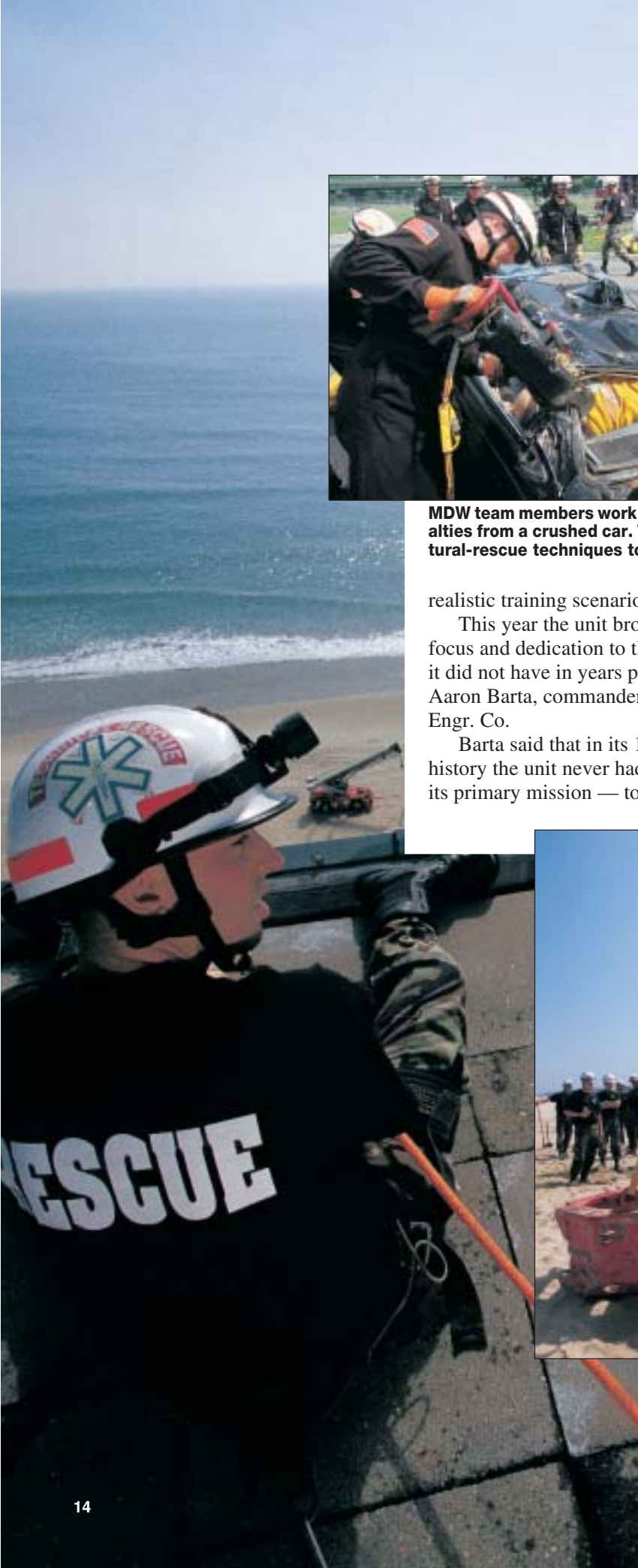
Based at Fort Belvoir, Va., the team traveled to Virginia Beach, Va., to participate in the four-day event with other technical rescue teams from around the state.

The MDW team has participated in the annual Rescue Challenge exercise for the past several years. The event tests such technical rescue skills as high line rope rescue, confined-space rescue, light and heavy structural collapse rescue, and trench rescue by having teams complete a series of

SPC Jonathan Wiley is assigned to the Fort Story, Va., Public Affairs Office. Paul Disney, a former Soldiers staffer, works for the Transportation Security Administration.



RESCUE Challenge



MDW team members work to free two simulated casualties from a crushed car. The soldiers adapted structural-rescue techniques to the task.

realistic training scenarios.

This year the unit brought a special focus and dedication to the event that it did not have in years past, said CPT Aaron Barta, commander of the MDW Engr. Co.

Barta said that in its 11-year history the unit never had to perform its primary mission — to provide

rescue support for military and federal contingencies in the National Capital Region.

“Before Sept. 11, no one thought we’d ever be called on to perform our mission. We know now that we always have to be ready. Sept. 11 was like any other day — until the attack. If it could happen that day, it can happen any day. We can’t say we’ll be ready next month; we have to ready today,” Barta said.

SSG Mark Williams, platoon sergeant for the unit’s light-rescue platoon, said it was difficult to keep the team motivated before the attack, although his soldiers were always trained to be proficient in their skills, as a matter of pride.

When the team responded following the Pentagon attack, it braced the building’s supporting columns to prevent their collapse. The soldiers arrived just hours after the attack and remained for 10 days, working 24-hour shifts until the massive search-and-rescue operation to recover the attack’s victims was completed.

Williams said that while seeing fellow soldiers being taken out of the Pentagon in body bags took a toll on him, the image and the nature of the soldiers’ deaths made him want to do more at this year’s “Challenge.”

“This is no game. We have to do everything right — both the small things and the big things — so if a tragedy like this ever happens



While the view from atop a building (left) is great the ground-level view of a chunk of old machinery that must be pulled from the surf (above) is daunting.



A team member secures a line that will help brace a tripod used during a victim-recovery scenario.

again, we'll be able to act quickly to save lives," Williams said.

Others in the unit share his enthusiasm, Williams said.

"You can see it on their faces. This year, they didn't come to Virginia Beach to have fun. They came to learn rescue techniques," he said.

The unit benefited from watching seven other technical-rescue teams from civilian fire departments respond to the same scenarios.

"Challenge's instructors designed eight rescue scenarios for which various responses were appropriate," said site instructor Mike Brown, a battalion chief with the Virginia Beach Fire Department.

"We want the teams to be able to think quickly, and we're looking at how they respond to the challenges. If their plan A doesn't work, they need to have a plan B," Brown said.

In one rescue scenario, soldiers arrived at a scene where an automobile had been crushed under a 42,000-pound school bus. They had two-and-a-half hours to retrieve mannequins trapped inside the car. Within minutes, the soldiers agreed on one approach to accomplish their mission.

"Most of the weight of the bus is up front, so we used air bags and wood blocks to jack the back of the bus three feet in the air," said Williams.

The MDW team rarely conducts vehicular-rescue exercises, Williams said, but it quickly adapted techniques used in structural collapse scenarios to complete the task.

In another scenario, a team member had to rappel from the top of a 10-story building, using only a rope.

"When you're up that high, you just have to trust your equipment and the people you're working with," said SGT Brian Flick.

"One of the problems we have as the only Army technical rescue team is we have to set up our scenarios, which means we have the answers beforehand. In this exercise, we weren't privy to the answers, so it was much more realistic and challenging," Barta said. □



It takes every member of the team to help pull the "screaming jackass," a 3,000-pound piece of an old bark chipper, through the surf during one of the more innovative scenarios.

Soldiers on

Story by Beth Reece

Harriet Rice



Capturing the elegance of the tune "Sparkling Diamonds" are, from left, SGT Rodney Watts, SSG Greg McPhee, PFC Jonathon Smith, 1LT Angel Stone, SPC Randy Batarao, SPC Mark Catarroja and SGT Albert Latuch.



Cast and crew members belt out a rousing finale as a gigantic American flag billows in the background.

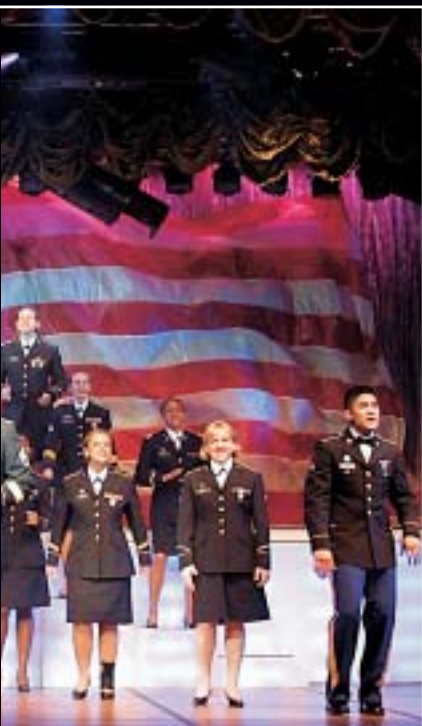
"Freedom
is Not
Just a Word"

Douglas Ide



SPC Mari Kootnz, a military police soldier stationed in Giessen, Germany, gives a fiery performance during the show's Latin-flavored segment.

Stage



Douglas Ide



Paul Disney

SPC Tryce Fink plays fiddle while SGT Kathy Heidecker, SGT Sharon Tongul and LTC Ann Gordon sing the Dixie Chicks' "Some Days You Gotta Dance."



Douglas Ide

SGT Diana Bond of Fort Sill, Okla., puts a lot of emotion into her performance of the Jo Dee Messina hit "Bring on the Rain."

PERFORMERS in the 2002 U.S. Army Soldier Show have found that being a soldier is about more than protecting freedom. For some, it's also a call to inspire and encourage, said SSG Q.P. Bean, a show cast member.

"I think it's important for people to know that soldiers have talents that allow them to take away sadness and make people smile even as America fights wars," Bean said.

A 90-minute, live musical on tour through November at installations Armywide, the Soldier Show spotlights the talents of 24 cast and crew members from such MOSs as infantry, signal and transportation. It's a production of the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center's Entertainment Division, and is one of more than 200 morale, welfare and recreation programs the Army provides soldiers and families worldwide.

The show debuted in May at Fort Belvoir, Va., and attracted viewers to the door an hour and a half before the curtain rose. Appearing at 54 installations in 20 states and six countries in Europe and the Middle East, the production features a variety of music, including pop, country, gospel, oldies, R&B and jazz. An opening number titled "Freedom is Not Just a Word" is followed by such songs as Celine Dion's "A New Day Has Come," Brooks and Dunn's "Only in America"

and Shakira's "Whenever, Wherever."

"We've got something for everyone to enjoy, and most of the songs are easily recognizable," said LTC Ann Gordon, a reservist and the highest-ranking soldier ever to perform in the show.

Audiences who see the show today in its refined, well-rehearsed form may think the performers are professional artists who've spent years honing their voices and movements, said artistic director Victor Hurtado. He's watched the cast members ripen into what he calls "total pros," and likes to think audiences will be wooed by the performers' creative gifts.

Boot Camp for Stars

The show's stars have weathered constant scrutiny since their showmanship, talent and poise snagged them roles during late-March auditions.

"They're going to be on the spot to perform every single night, so they have to be perfect," Hurtado said. "They've got a lot of mental and physical hurdles to clear before we take the show on the road, and there won't be room for sensitivity."

Hurtado doesn't hesitate to correct performers' mistakes. "I call them on things immediately. But I also tell them they can't feel bad every time they do something wrong, because mistakes are inevitable."

Superstars perfect their perfor-



SPC Tryce Fink adds variety to this year's Soldier Show by sharing her instrumental talents.

Paul Disney

mances over months or years; these soldiers had just six weeks to mature into professional singers and dancers. Twelve-hour days were the norm, and the anticipation of live performances was as nagging as it was exciting.

SPC Jaye Pineda-Chavez said she lost 15 pounds because of the rigorous dance workouts. In rehearsals she lost four days of practice because of a damaged knee, and the constant singing strained her voice.

"But it's worth the pains to be part of something this big," she said.

The show's broad musical range requires performers to portray various emotions through voice and movement. A certain pitch of the voice might signal heartache, for example, or a stretch of the arm could communicate need.

In early rehearsals for a mixed duet of country hits, choreographer Maurice Johnson encouraged SGT Rodney Watts and SGT Diana Bond to use gestures to lure audiences into the song's story.

"You have to establish a relationship the audience will feel," Johnson told the performers. "Trust me. You'll get a feel for this as you rehearse the routine."

Faster tunes challenge cast members to control their breathing

while dancing and singing simultaneously. Johnson — who has worked with production teams for Michael Jackson and Madonna,

among others — eased rehearsals by slicing routines into segments, allowing cast members to gradually memorize whole songs.

"Putting all the routines together into one performance was the hardest part," said SPC Robin Smith. "At first, it was impossible to remember what step went with what part of what song."

And there were those, like Bean, who started rehearsals with two left feet. "My worst memory of rehearsals is when everyone had finished learning their numbers, but I was still working through mine," he said.

While fellow cast members headed home after 12 hours of rehearsals, 1LT Jennifer Sherwood — whose stage experience includes performances in "Grease" and "Annie" — stayed behind to help Bean clean up his act.

"We've worked as a team from the beginning," said Gordon. "This has made a big difference during costume

Show schedules, cast biographies, performance photos and information about how to audition are available on the Army's morale, welfare and recreation Web site at www.armymwr.com.

The Crew

BEHIND the scenes, six unseen but essential crew members make the Soldier Show cast shine.

"We couldn't do this show without the technicians. They deserve a lot of credit. Without them we'd be standing under a street light without a set, and with no sound," said cast member LTC Ann Gordon.

The crew includes a stage manager, floor manager, light technician, wardrobe technician and two audio technicians. They operate computer-based lighting and audio functions to

add spotlights and color throughout performances. They can also increase the volume on microphones for performers with soft voices.

Lead audio engineer SSG Robert Boucher said he's honored to work with a cast "so incredibly talented."

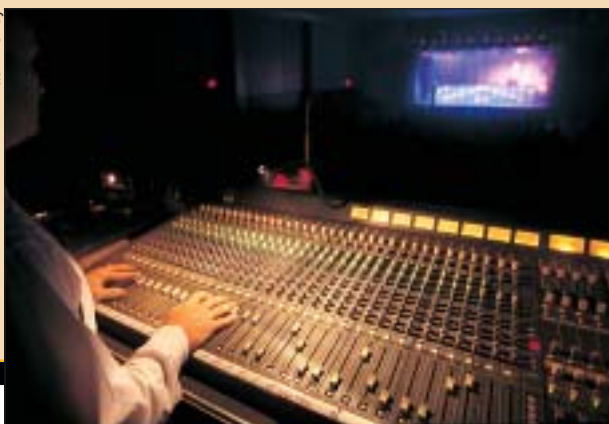
"I'm blown away every time I see them perform, and I'm thankful that we have top-of-the-line equipment to help bring their performances together," he said.

The crew also

includes six military drivers with commercial licenses. They drive an 18-wheel tractor-trailer that hauls most of the production's equipment, as well as a 44-passenger bus and 15-passenger van for staff and costumes. — *Beth Reece*

SSG Robert Boucher enhances the show with sound and lighting adjustments on computerized equipment.

Paul Disney



Manual Labor

FORMER SMA Robert E. Hall called the Soldier Show the most grueling duty apart from combat. It's no surprise, because cast members mount and tear down almost 20 tons of stage equipment per show.

"This is 80 percent of what we do. Entertaining is only 20 percent," said SPC Joey Beebe, who returned as this year's production assistant after performing in the 2001 show.

More than one million pounds of electrical, sound, lighting and stage gear will pass through the cast and crews' hands before the tour's end. That includes four miles of cable and 125 theatrical lights.

While it can take almost 14 hours for a new cast and crew to set up the stage for the first time, they'll do it in

less than six hours by the time the show returns to the East Coast for its final performances in October and November.

Dismantling the stage takes about two hours, after which cast and crew members load everything onto an 18-wheel tractor-trailer.

Much of the equipment is heavy and requires caution while setting up. As the highest-ranking member of the cast and crew, LTC Ann Gordon has adopted the role of safety officer. She ensures soldiers wear hard hats and construction boots during setup, and listens for sounds that signal something is wrong with the stage's framework.

Because stage work is so exten-

Paul Disney



SPC Randy Batarao adjusts support cables for the stage's framework.

sive, Soldier Show finalists were given a taste of the hard labor during audition week.

"We wanted them to know how hard it is — that the show isn't all about performing," said Beebe. "Plus, we wanted to see how they'd work together as a team, because it takes everybody to do it right." — *Beth Reece*

changes, especially when we perform in back-to-back songs."

Beyond Sight and Sound

"A good voice and a knack for dancing aren't enough, so much more has to come from within," said Hurtado, who starred in the show from 1986 to 1989 and later produced "Sounds of Unity" with Kenny Loggins. "It's an indescribable quality that you can see, but can't teach."

Elvis had it. Madonna has it. "I'm talking about stage presence. People with this gift can look into the audience and make every person feel as if the singer is performing just for them."

While Hurtado thinks cast members will connect with audiences on a superficial level because they're all soldiers, he's found that his performers have a sincerity that he trusts will deepen the connection.

Cast members also bring their own instrumental talents to several performances. SPC Tryce Fink performs a lively fiddle tune. And Watts strums guitar to "The Red, White and Blue," a song he wrote, which aired on a Kentucky radio station early this year.

The cast's versatility no doubt enhances the show, Hurtado said, but

he is still most pleased with the range of voice styles.

"I've got every instrument I need," he said. "I've got one person with a rich, deep, but still feminine voice with beautiful bravado. I've got girls who can wail really high. And I've got the sincere, sweet, yet masculine voice."

Most performers have said stardom isn't their goal, and many miss their families and the jobs they left behind.

"I'm enjoying myself here, but I also look forward to going back to my husband and my job," said Pineda-Chavez, an aircraft dispatcher.

Some performers have confided their higher aspirations to Hurtado, asking for the secret to success.

"It's not fair," he said, "but fame is more often about luck than talent." So he urges them to measure success by personal growth and audiences' reactions.

"Judge yourself by looking into people's faces and what they say after the performance," he tells them. "When a 4-year-old and a 90-year-old both tell you how much they enjoyed the show, then you know you've touched a person directly."

And inspiring others to feel, he said, is exactly what the Soldier Show is about. □

Douglas Ide



1LT Jennifer Sherwood (front), SGT Timora Green (left) and SPC Robin Smith sing "Lady Marmelade" in the show's "Moulin Rouge" segment.

A Twilight Stroll Through

Story and Photos by SSG Alberto Betancourt



A



Soldiers of the U.S. Army Drill Team spin their rifles in an intricate display during a performance on the Ellipse.

ON Wednesdays, as the sun begins to set over the nation's capital, the Army's history unfolds on the Ellipse, in the shadow of the White House and the Washington Monument.

Since April 17 and through Aug. 15, the Twilight Tattoo — an hour-long military pageant featuring members of the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard); the U.S. Army Band, Pershing's Own; The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps; and the U.S. Army Drill Team — has taken audiences strolling down the Army's "memory lane."

"Along with our musical presentation and performance on the field, we

narrate where the Army has been, what it's doing and where we're going," said Ron McLendon II, a spokesman for the U.S. Army Military District of Washington. "This show depicts the Army's history from its inception to Force XXI."

He said a "tattoo" is a military tradition dating to the early 17th century. The sounding of the bugle signaled soldiers to close down the tavern and return to their quarters. Someone would then "tap to" the keg stoppers.

"Through the years 'tap to' evolved into 'tattoo,' said McLendon. "In the spirit of military tradition, during basic training

'tattoo' is the call to quiet down and for the troops to hit their bunks."

Before the show, soldiers dressed in period uniforms interact with the audience.

"Going out and meeting the public is my favorite part," said SFC William Edward White Jr., who was dressed in a colonial-era uniform. "Most people don't get the opportunity to see the Army's history like this. That's why this show is so special."

McLendon said the show familiarizes the community with the Army's history and traditions, and shows them that the service is about much more than what they see on the prime-time news.

American patriotism has peaked since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, one audience member said. For one hour, surrounded by historical landmarks in the heart of our nation's capital, the Twilight Tattoo performance elevates spirits and leaves audiences with a renewed appreciation for America's Army. □



Army History



Bewigged and dressed in Colonial-era uniforms, members of The Old Guard's Fife and Drum Corps perform before a cheering crowd.



Soldiers in both modern and period uniforms help illustrate the Army's long and proud history for an appreciative audience.



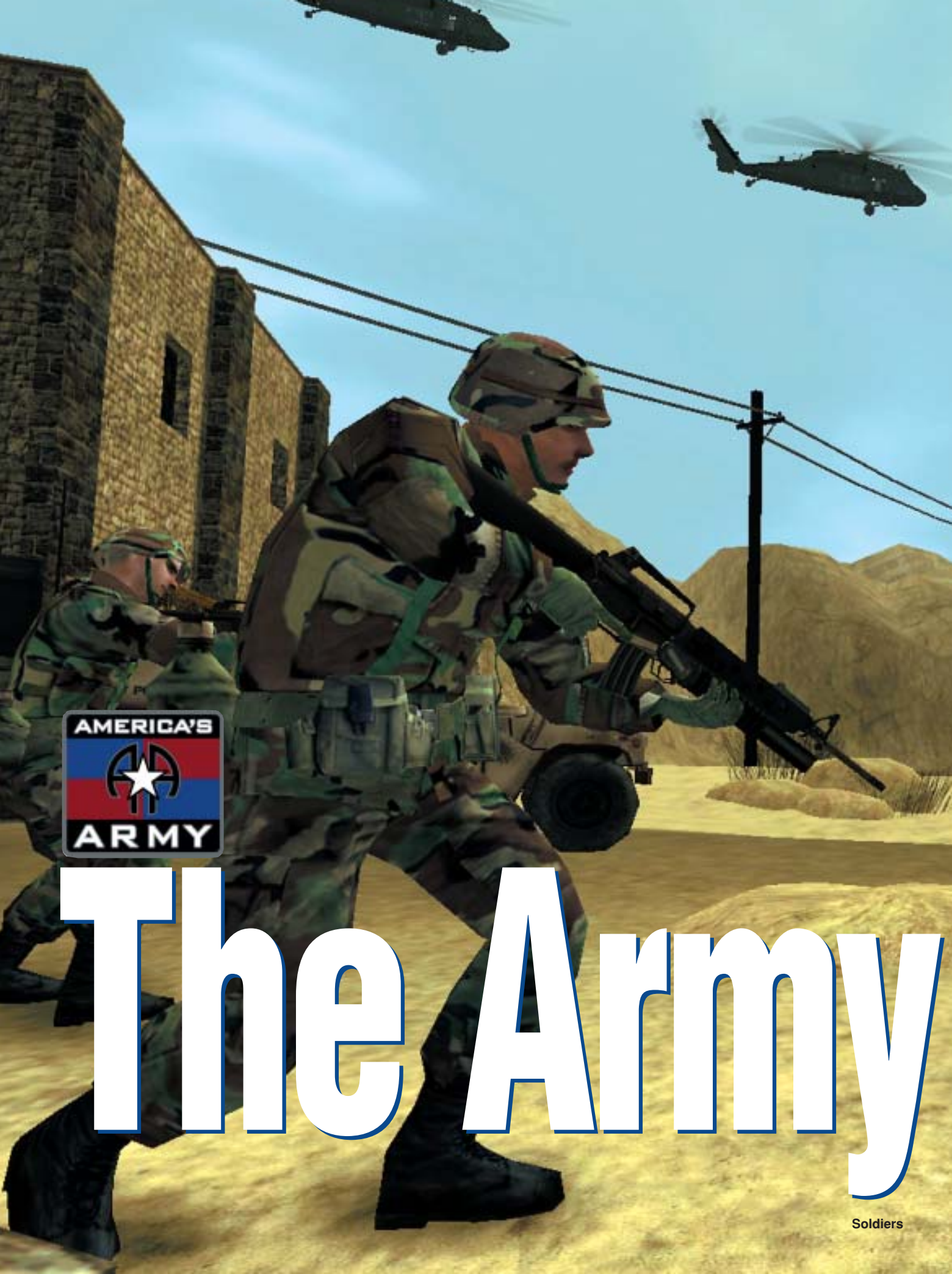
Younger members of the large crowd, gathered on the Ellipse, dance as the Army Chorale and Chorus performs.



Twilight Tattoo performances elevate spirits and leave audiences with a renewed appreciation for America's Army.

With the White House in the background, members of The Old Guard's Salute Battery prepare to fire their guns at the start of the Twilight Tattoo.

"Twilight Tattoo"



The Army

Soldiers

ONCE, kids played Army out in their backyards with toy soldiers and G.I. Joe action figures, maneuvering toy tanks and other “weapons of war” around makeshift battlefields.

Their imaginations flourished, fueled by the combat films they saw and the war stories their fathers or other relatives shared with them.

The youngsters mimicked the actions of the actor-soldiers and provided their own sound effects to simulate weapons fire and bomb blasts. From the safety of their dirt-mound forts, the would-be heroes could—in a very limited way—experience what it was like to be a soldier.

Starting this month, kids and adults alike will have the opportunity to play a more realistic Army game, “America’s Army: The Official U.S. Army Game.” Copies of the two-CD computer game are to be distributed free of charge to a target audience over the age of 13.

The interactive game will allow players to “travel” through virtual Army environments and experience everything from the enlistment process at a recruiting station to jumping out of a C-130 during an airborne operation and retrieving stolen Stinger missiles from enemy forces, said LTC George Juntiff, the Army Game Project’s operations officer.

The Army’s intent is not only to enhance kids’ — and adults’ — Army

game-playing experiences and spark interest in the Army as a potential career, but to reintroduce the Army to the population at large, said Paul Boyce, an Army spokesman at the Pentagon.



From standard office-environment scenarios to authority-based leadership training modules, “America’s Army” provides players with real-life imagery of weapons, terrain and equipment.

Game

Story by Heike Hasenauer

The Next Best Thing to Being There



Players in the Army game make the decisions that guide their characters. By electing to have the character attend the Primary Leadership Development Course, for example, the player can give the character those traits needed to advance his career as he moves through the game's various modules.

The idea for an Army game designed by the Army originated at the Office of Economic and Manpower Analysis at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., as an online outreach effort for the assistant secretary of the Army for reserve affairs two years ago, said MAJ Christopher Chambers, deputy director of the Army Game Project.

The estimated \$7 million game will evolve over five years to cover all the Army's military occupational specialties, said Professor Michael Zyda, director of the Naval Postgraduate School's Modeling Virtual Environments and Simulation institute, better known as the MOVES Institute, in Monterey, Calif.

At press time, "America's Army" included

20 combat-arms missions in the action component and depicted most of the Army's Career Management Fields in the adventure component.

Faculty members, government contractors and joint services' personnel who are completing master's degrees in computer sciences at NPS created the game — with the help of countless Army subject-matter experts.

Recently showcased at one of the largest annual computer-game exposi-



Players can observe nighttime operations through the same night-vision-goggle view their characters "see."

tions in the world, the Electronics Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles, Calif., "America's Army" was favorably received by representatives from some of the foremost gaming companies in the country, Zyda said.

In one part of the two-CD game called "Soldiers," four toy soldiers appear from the top of the computer screen and fall in line in front of the player, then "morph" into real-life soldiers.

Players can choose one of the soldiers as their "game piece" or "create" their own soldier, said NPS Professor John Hiles, who designed the "Soldiers" software.

The four real-life soldiers are CPL Kemar Ebanks, PFC Joseph Boever, SGT Robert Miranda and SGT Patrick Curran, all of the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 504th Infantry, at Fort Bragg, N.C. Additional real-life "game pieces" include SPC Angela Romine of the 1/504th, and SPC Vivica Foxwell and PFC Kimberly Robinson of the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif.

The soldiers posed in front of a blue screen and were videotaped as they performed PT, put on equipment, ran with full infantry gear, fired weapons, worked with various tools and spent time convers-

THE ARMY GAME

THE NEXT BEST THING TO BEING THERE



ing with comrades, said Miranda. Their movements were then computer-generated and incorporated into the game, so players can experience the Army vicariously through the soldier and the game options they choose.

The preselected characters will possess both good and not so good character traits, Hiles said. One will have great drive, but will be weak physically. Another comes from a poor family and isn't well educated.

"The player, given six resources and seven values to choose from, makes the decisions that guide his character," Hiles said. The resources include energy, strength, knowledge, skill, finance and popularity. The values are loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

If the player is headed for the Primary Leadership Development Course, for example, and realizes his map-reading skills need some work,

In the first-person operations portion of the game players can enter any of 20 infantry-related scenarios, complete with small-arms fire and interactions with enemy personnel.

he can opt to attend a refresher course rather than spend time with friends.

In the "Operations" portion of the game — a first-person-action game — players can enter any of 20 infantry-squad-related scenarios, said the segment's producer, NPS Professor Michael Capps.

Real-life imagery of weapons, equipment and terrain — including views through night-vision devices — have been coupled with an emphasis on training, Capps said.

"We want people to have a good time with this. But we want them to know, too, that when a soldier enlists in the Army, he's not simply taken to the top of a tower and told to jump," Capps said. "He's taught to jump safely before actually doing it." Players learn that they must complete airborne training before they can join an airborne unit, or ranger school before they can go on missions reserved for ranger-qualified soldiers.

Drill sergeants and instructors guide the soldier-players through training and provide guidance throughout the players' "careers." Players who negotiate an obstacle course will hear real-life drill sergeant SFC Rodney Gaskins, of the 172nd Infantry Brigade



at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, bark commands. “At this pace, I’ll be retired by the time you’re done,” he shouts at a few slow-moving troops.

At the end of ranger training in the Georgia mountains, players find themselves in the midst of a mountain ambush, looking down the barrel of an M-16 rifle while advancing through a forest or over a bridge.

In another scenario, players find themselves at a pumping station in Alaska, attempting to prevent a terrorist attack.

Players who perform well earn opportunities to advance. Those who undergo basic marksmanship training and qualify as expert marksmen, for instance, can opt to go to sniper school. At the same time, players face consequences for making bad choices. Negative behavior could land the

player in prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The multi-player “Operations” portion of “America’s Army” will soon be available online, Army officials said, so a squad of soldiers could come up against other players.

The game’s programmers and graphic-arts team visited 16 Army installations and interviewed more than 700 soldiers over the two-year game-development period to ensure its accuracy, Juntiff said.

“Members of the Army Game Project team traveled to Fort Lewis, Wash., for example, and fired every type of small-arms weapon in the Army’s

inventory,” Juntiff said. “Their experiences helped them to incorporate realistic weapon-firing sequences into the game.”

The roughly 30-member team responsible for developing the game’s software — among them Defense Department employees, contractors, professors and students at the MOVES institute — spent two to three days at each installation.

They rode in helicopters with



Before players encounter the enemy in combat (*above*), their characters first learn the necessary skills — such as how to handle an M-16 — during realistic training (*left*).



THE ARMY GAME

THE NEXT BEST THING TO BEING THERE



soldiers from the 101st Airborne Div., fired tank main guns at Fort Knox, Ky., and visited Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga., Capps said. Some of them even participated in a night-time training exercise with soldiers at the Air Assault School.

For the assault-on-an-insurgent-camp scenario, teams met with soldiers from the 75th Ranger Regiment to create a realistic camp, Capps said.

"I told the rangers, 'don't make ranger training easy,'" Hiles said. "Don't let people think it's easy."

Consequently, characters won't always be physically fit and "running" a race on a smooth track in the sunshine. They'll be tired, dodging rain and sinking in mud.

The circumstances characters are exposed to "force their values — or lack of them — to surface," Hiles said.

The game also introduces players to the Army's amateur sports program, off-post housing initiatives and soldier episodes of financial difficulty and positive intervention.

Representatives from Epic Games, developers of "Unreal Tournament," the 2001 Video Game of the Year, play-tested "America's Army," as did 200 gamers and soldiers.

One scenario has the game characters capturing enemy troops (left), while in another scene troops must undertake a reconnaissance behind enemy lines (below).



George Lucas' company, Skywalker, which produces sound effects for the movie industry, and Dolby Digital Sound, helped create the sound effects for "America's Army." Additionally, sound effects from the "Terminator II" movie were given to game developers free of charge, Capps added.

"It's all resulted in a game that actually does what it promises to do, deliver a realistic view of the Army," Chambers said.

At press time, Army officials were considering distribution outlets, including inserting the game CDs in popular magazines. □

The game's programmers and graphic-arts team visited 16 Army installations and interviewed more than 700 soldiers over the two-year game-development period to ensure its accuracy.



BEST

“In their own right, they are world-class athletes. They are the best of the best.”

Using the Prusik climb, Best Ranger competitor 1LT Scott Wence attacks a 60-foot tower soldiers had to climb before rappeling down the other side.

RANGERS 2002

Story and Photos by SPC Douglas DeMaio



SFC Bruce Hoffman pulls himself across an obstacle. The demanding competition stresses contestants both physically and mentally.



Having crossed one obstacle, Hoffman confronts another — low crawling beneath a barbed-wire entanglement.

DESCENDING by parachute from a helicopter 1,500 feet above the drop zone, an Army ranger was carried into the trees by a gust of wind. He hit hard among the sharply pointed branches, and the spectators watching the Best Ranger Competition audibly reacted as they witnessed the collision.

Physical dangers exist throughout the competition, and injuries are a common occurrence. The 60-hour event hosted by Fort Benning, Ga., puts stress on the mind, joints, muscles and bones, and the injuries soon impede a competitor's will to continue. But many tolerate their injuries and continue forward.

SSG Shane Jernigan of the 6th Ranger Training Battalion, for example, suffered a broken ankle but still managed to cross the finish line. As one contender put it, "You know it's going to hurt coming into the competition, but sometimes it demands more than some participants can give."

But many of the challenges are as tough on the mind and spirit as they are on the body, said LTC David Pound, Ranger Training Brigade executive officer.

Each year the events are changed or the requirements increased specifically to challenge each competitor's mental toughness, Pound said.

"A lot of this competition is psychological," he said. "We want to throw in enough twists to take these guys out of their comfort zones."

One simple change to this year's fitness test required that competitors do sit-ups immediately following the push-up event. The change may have challenged participants physically, but it more adversely affected those who let it take them by surprise, Pound said.

The forced march was also changed. At the 21-mile mark — what many of the competitors anticipated being the finish line —

SPC Douglas DeMaio is assigned to Fort Benning's Bayonet newspaper.





SFC Brian Waterman and his teammate, SSG Franklin Rosario, scramble downhill as they try for the best score on the Darby Queen Course.

the march was extended an additional three miles. More than half the participants were knocked out by this one change, and only 15 of the original 47 teams remained after the march.

Suddenly, many of the lower-ranking teams had moved up in the standing simply because they had survived, said SGT Anthony Mayne, of the 3rd Bn., 75th Ranger Regiment.

“We moved up in the standings and ran our race,” he said. “We weren’t concerned about what the other teams were doing and just continued to do what we had to do.”

The march also took its toll on those survivors who had not fully recovered by the second day.

It was there that CPT Duane Patin and SSG Daniel Jenkins from the 5th Ranger Training Bn. took their lead and never looked back. On the final day, the two-man team won the 20th annual Best Ranger Competition.

For the remaining 12 teams, that final day was a struggle in which their only reward would be to say they had completed their mission.

“It feels like we accomplished something,” Mayne said. “It’s a personal achievement, but the experience is the biggest factor.”

The Army promotes the Best Ranger Competition in order to display some of the finest tactical and technical soldiers in the world, and to encourage participants to take what they’ve learned in the competition and teach it to others, Pound said.

“It highlights the best two-man-buddy teams,” Pound said. “In their own right, they are world-class athletes. They are the best of the best.” □



SSG Daniel Jenkins (above) and CPT Duane Patin (right) cross the finish line to win the 2002 Best Ranger Competition.





Competitors helocast from a hovering UH-60 into the Chattahoochee River on day three of the competition.



SSG James Yaw of the 6th Ranger Training Battalion performs a "balancing act" while negotiating the Darby Queen Course.



SGT Adam Reiber (*left*) and SSG Shane Jernigan carry their 300-pound equipment bag after emerging from the Chattahoochee River.

Presenting "The Best of the Best..."



Chief of Staff of the Army GEN Eric K. Shinseki poses with the winners of the 20th annual Best Ranger competition, Patin and Jenkins, after presenting the pair with their victory medals and pistols.

THE 25th Infantry Division assumed peace-enforcement duties in Bosnia in April, replacing the National Guard's 29th Inf. Div., whose units are based primarily in Virginia and Maryland.

In keeping with Army requirements to rotate the six-month Stabilization Force tour in Bosnia between active-duty and reserve-component commands, the Hawaii-based 25th Inf. Div. is now providing the headquarters elements and a large contingent of troops for SFOR-11. About 51 percent of the force is composed of active-duty troops. The remaining soldiers are from the National Guard and Army Reserve.

There are currently three NATO multinational divisions performing peacekeeping duties in Bosnia. The United States has commanded Multinational Division-North since 1995. Russia, Turkey and Norway are also part of MND-N.



Though patrolling is an important part of the job for soldiers assigned to SFOR, it is just one aspect of the mission.

Bosnia Update

"Initially, they thought the soldiers were frightening, gun-carrying people."

HELPING the people of Bosnia rebuild their lives is a primary goal of the multinational divisions positioned throughout Bosnia.

But as coalition forces patrol the streets, protecting citizens from potential threats from each other, rebel

forces and terrorists, they're also providing medical care, school supplies and drug demand-reduction classes.

The war in Bosnia left some 200,000 people dead or missing over the past decade, and also created a population of orphans.

In the financially ruined country, educating the children has been a priority of U.S. soldiers deployed to Bosnia as part of the SFOR rotations,

This story was compiled from news releases by SSG George Young of the Massachusetts National Guard's State Area Command Public Affairs Office and SPCs Michelle Lunato and Vincent Oliver, both of the 305th Public Affairs Detachment.

so much so that they created a program called "Adopt-A-School."

Among those who have participated in the program is 1LT Mark Guilfoil of the Massachusetts Guard's 104th Inf., who was in Bosnia with some 250 other Massachusetts Guard soldiers with SFOR-10.

"The children aren't allowed to attend school if they don't have something to write with," said Guilfoil. "So they try to get pens from soldiers who patrol their towns."

Under the Adopt-A-School program, a soldier from each rotation volunteers to organize a collection drive for school supplies from his or her hometown and have them sent to Bosnia.

Guilfoil organized a drive at the American Legion Post 107 in Natick, Mass. The Milford Employees Association at Massachusetts National Guard Headquarters in Milford also donated supplies. They were then loaded aboard an aircraft that took the state's adjutant general, BG George Keefe, to Bosnia to visit his Guard soldiers.

When the 25th Inf. Div. came, as part of SFOR-11, 1SG Bruce Robertson of Company B, 1st Battalion, became involved in the program, distributing construction paper, crayons and Rice Krispie Treats.

But it was the soldiers' interaction with the children, not the treats, that quelled their fear of the Americans, said Kuljan Elementary School teacher Trumic Nedret. "Initially, they thought the soldiers were frightening, gun-carrying people."

"The Adopt-A-School program could very well be one of the most important things we do here, as far as interacting with the population at large," Robertson said. "By exposing the children to an outside influence, we're giving them knowledge of different people and cultures." □

SPC Michelle Lunato



Comprehensive eye exams for local citizens was just one mission undertaken by the members of Task Force Medical Eagle during the April civil-action program.

"The people here have very few medical resources available to them. We're truly like ambassadors of good will."

Medical Aid

Medical care is also among SFOR officials' ongoing concerns, because Bosnia's future is dependent upon its people, said COL Princess Facen, chief nurse for Task Force Medical Eagle, which was conducted in April in the village of Krizevici, near Zvornik.

"In order for the children to eventually make a difference in this country, they must be healthy," she said.

The medical civil-action program was especially significant because the village's original clinic was destroyed in the war, Facen said. It was the only outpatient clinic serving some 3,000 people in Krizevici and seven surrounding villages.

"We're trying to show that we're supporting all the people of Bosnia, regardless of their religious beliefs," said CPT Todd Jackson, TFME head emergency-room nurse.

Medical care is part of the peacekeeping mission, Facen said. "Our primary mission is to provide medical care to soldiers deployed with MND-N." But when military medical teams can provide medical services to people in the local communities, they're sending a message to the local population that people in other parts of the world care about them.

"I'm very happy that I was able to receive help without having to pay for it," said Ziba Muminovic, who received medicine for her diabetes and high blood pressure.

"The people here have very few medical resources available to them," said dental specialist SPC Xavier Creekmur. "We're truly like ambassadors of good will." □



The UH-60 air ambulances of the 1085th Medical Company sometimes use their rescue hoists to lift SFOR soldiers out of minefields.

SPC Michelle Lunato

SPC Vincent Oliver

Air Ambulance

With SFOR soldiers operating in many different areas of heavily mined Bosnia, the role of the Army's 1085th Medical Co. is equally significant.

Although soldiers and civilians alike are constantly warned about the dangers of mines and the importance of staying on designated paths or roadways, accidents still occur, said 1085th flight surgeon MAJ Jeffery Anderson,

That's when the 1085th's UH-60 Black Hawk medical-evacuation aircraft arrive on the scene to quickly remove casualties.

The helicopter hovers just above treetop level and a medic descends on a "jungle penetrator," which looks like a small torpedo with seats that flip down and lock into place.

The penetrator can support a litter for casualties who need to be immobilized, or it can hoist people in a sitting position, face-to-face with the medic, said flight medic SSG Bruce Conger.

"We can extract an injured soldier and get him definitive medical care in about 20 minutes," Anderson said. □



Aviation mechanics SPC Robert Evans and SGT Larry Drinnen of the 1085th Med. Co. work on the rotor hub of one of the unit's Black Hawks.

SPC Vincent Oliver



Danish SFOR soldiers stand near an armored ambulance used during a medical-evacuation exercise in which the 1085th Med. Co. participated.



SSG George Young

Massachusetts Guard 1LT Mark Guilfoil displays some of the books and toys donated to Bosnian schools by people in his home town.

Drug Demand Reduction

Just as mine-awareness classes target children to keep them safe, so, too, does a drug-education program started recently by SFOR-11 soldiers from the division engineer section of Headquarters and HQs. Co., 25th Inf. Div.

"The program is not just a 'don't-do-drugs program,'" said SFC Dennis Scott, lead instructor for the "Bee-like me ... bee-drug-free" program. "It's a life-skills program designed to give local children the skills they need to deal with everyday life situations, as well as with the growing illegal drug problem in Bosnia."

Scott, an Army-trained master instructor, was tasked to develop a written training plan to train soldiers who will act as mentors for fifth- and sixth-grade "bees," or student role models. The bees, in turn, act as role models for their peers.

Besides learning how to avoid alcohol and illegal drugs, the students learn how to set goals, communicate effectively and resolve conflicts, Scott said.

The program has had a great impact on the local community, said Gordana Cvelic, a Croatian-born American citizen and teacher who returned to Bosnia as an interpreter. Today she is the liaison between U.S. military officials and local school officials who participate in the program.

The military's presence — whether it be patrolling the streets to keep the peace, or introducing Bosnia's children to cultures in other lands — continues to improve the lives of people tragically affected by war. □

The military's presence continues to improve the lives of people tragically affected by war.



The security and humanitarian assistance provided to the people of Bosnia by SFOR's soldiers help ensure that peace has a chance to grow in the troubled Balkan nation.



A Hot and Deadly M

Story and Photos by Arthur McQueen

"When we came down here and saw what had happened, we knew we had our work cut out for us."

INTENSE heat enveloped U.S. soldiers at the Ikeja Cantonment Area in Lagos, Nigeria, western Africa's largest city, 300 miles from the equator,

Adding to their discomfort, the soldiers — from the Mannheim, Germany-based 720th Ordnance Company — were wearing flak jackets and were laden with an assortment of tools and tape.

Months earlier, the Nigerian

army's 9th Mechanized Brigade's ammunition-transfer point at Ikeja had exploded. The blast killed some 1,000 people and created a death zone littered with more than 100,000 munitions.

The Nigerian government sent out a call for assistance. U.S. Army, Europe, responded by organizing Operation Avid Recovery to begin saving lives, one square meter at a time. Four days after the incident, U.S. advance teams were on the ground.

"The local population was already

Arthur McQueen works in the U.S. Army, Europe, Public Affairs Office in Heidelberg, Germany.



» (Far left) Soldiers of the 720th Ordnance Company prepare recovered munitions for destruction.

» (Left) The 720th's SSG Bryan Powell inspects one of the many kinds of munitions the USAREUR soldiers recovered after the blast at the Ikeja ammunition-transfer point.

» (Below) These munitions — a small example of the types of devices laying around the cantonment area — have been marked as safe and are awaiting disposal.

» (Bottom) The initial explosion at Ikeja devastated the Nigerian army cantonment area and killed more than 1,000 people.



ission

Telephone poles were bent, and power lines sagged. Severed lines lay on the ground. Concrete barracks and apartments were abandoned, their roofs peeled open like tin cans.

at risk when the U.S. soldiers arrived,” said 720th Ord. Co. commander CPT Brian Winningham, whose unit formed the core of Task Force Avid Recovery.

“After the transfer point exploded, all of the ordnance at the site was susceptible to various types of spin, inertia, heat, shock and friction. Just going near it was dangerous,” Winningham said.

The vista of twisted metal on the ground was awe-inspiring, he said. Shells of all sizes and shapes cluttered the ground out to a half-kilometer from

the blast site. Many of them had been ripped open in the explosion and were rusting in the wet heat.

Telephone poles were bent, and power lines sagged. Severed lines lay on the ground. Concrete barracks and apartments were abandoned, their roofs peeled open like tin cans. The dark, empty buildings contributed to the overall eeriness of the scene.

“When we came down here and saw what had happened, we knew we had our work cut out for us,” said 1SG David Lee, as he held a detonator and





"Operationally, the first thing we did was establish a safe holding area, out of the sun."

inspected it for explosive residue.

"The first thing we did was advise the Nigerian government to evacuate the area," said SFC Charles Lee. Many Ikeja residents had moved back in, heedless of the danger. Goats, lizards and chickens still wandered freely through the compound, searching for food.

"There were children within the cantonment area running and playing around unexploded ordnance," said MAJ Allen Cassell of the 21st Theater Support Command, the task force commander. "One small Belgian rifle grenade, or the fuse for a mortar that would fit in a child's hand, is just as deadly as some of the 120mm white-phosphorous rounds lying around.

"The initial assessment team laid out the area into six large grids around the original ammunition-transfer depot," Cassell said. The teams then went into each grid and did an assessment. It changed daily as they found additional unexploded ordnance. With the "roadmap" as a guide, they cleared the visible munitions from lanes within the grid.

"We swept the range and detonated, in-place, everything that we considered too dangerous to transport."



"Operationally, the first thing we did was establish a safe holding area, out of the sun," said 1SG Lee. "We swept the range and detonated, in-place, everything that we considered too dangerous to transport.

"Then we brought the Nigerians on line to help rid the area of 'pick-up-and-carry-away' munitions," he added. "We eliminated those weekly in a mass detonation at a site 60 kilometers from here, away from any residential areas."

"Our number-one difficulty here is the heat," said SFC Lee. "We usually start operations at 0600, and are forced to stop at 1200. At 1100, the temperature is 94 to 96 degrees, and that's when things start blowing up on their own."

At 100 degrees, white phosphorus starts to flow, then smoke and then the round can initiate, added 1SG Lee. "Out here, the standard Army C-4 demolition charge is like soft putty, fun to work with, but dangerous. You constantly have to make sure the ordnance is in the shade."

The heat and humidity also affect

» (Top left) The American EOD soldiers had to recover, measure, identify and catalog more than 600 types of ordnance found at the Ikeja site.

» (Above) A huge smoke cloud rises above the site where 720th Ord. Co. soldiers used some 250 pounds of C-4 to destroy recovered munitions.

» (Above, right) Many grim reminders remain of the destruction caused by the accident at the Nigerian army ammunition transfer point. That explosion created a "death zone" littered with munitions.

the equipment. Explosive ordnance disposal soldiers use portable X-ray machines to assess the stability of munitions. Binoculars and digital cameras, for documenting various types of rounds, are all affected by condensation, 1SG Lee added.

The soldiers didn't dress for comfort. Each wore a helmet, flak vest, boots, long pants and protective eyewear. Their battle-dress uniform pants and jackets were typically dark, drenched with sweat. They drank water whenever possible.

"The first day, I went through five bottles of water," said SGT Mike Tarvin. The humidity hovered around



95 percent as he measured and cataloged munitions. “But this is fantastic. I get to do my job.”

EOD technicians do the same job in peacetime as in war. They train constantly, and are always focused on safety.

“The school we go to is nine to 12 months long, and they don’t teach people how to die,” said SFC Lee. Normal training situations teach students everything from how to dispose of single devices to how to handle large quantities of ordnance.

“Sometimes training seems far-fetched. Let’s say a Russian ammunition supply plane crashes directly into a French ammo dump,” said SPC John Worcester, as he placed a sandbag around an item to be blown up in place. “Then you come down here, and it’s a reality. Normally we train with hundreds of rounds. Here there are tens of thousands.”

SSG Jason Doty noted that accidents of this nature are fortunately rare. “This is the first time an ammunition storage point has blown up with so many different types of ordnance in

it,” he said. During the Vietnam War, an American ammunition supply point exploded with equivalent destructive power, but it contained fewer varieties of munitions.

The Nigerians provided the task force with a list of ordnance kept in the transfer depot. According to SSG Dan James, the 720th has identified 604 different types of munitions from around the world at the site. A short list of their originating countries includes the United States, France, Germany, Russia, China, the former

Yugoslavia, Belgium, Sweden, Italy, Chile and Great Britain. And some of the munitions dated to World War II.

Despite the daunting task of eliminating the danger the ordnance poses, Worcester remained positive. “It’s the best job in the Army. Who else gets to do what we do? It involves a lot of responsibility, but offers a great reward, knowing we’ve saved people’s lives.”

Following their initial clean up of the site, the task force trained Nigerian army soldiers to identify, clean and categorize the munitions, said SFC Lee.

“Nigerian soldiers trained in bomb disposal tried to manage the situation before U.S. soldiers arrived. But now they know how to better dispose of the ordnance safely,” said Brig. Gen. George Emdin, commander of the Nigerian 9th Mech. Bde.

The USAREUR operation has successfully reduced the immediate threat to the residents of Lagos, but others will need to continue the mission. “It’s going to take a very long time to clean this up,” 1SG Lee said. □

“It’s the best job in the Army. Who else gets to do what we do? It involves a lot of responsibility, but offers a great reward, knowing we’ve saved people’s lives.”

BEFORE summer, nearly 1,500 National Guard soldiers had helped federal officers control access to the United States along the Mexican and Canadian borders.

One such place is Laredo, Texas, where up to 20,000 vehicles and 100,000 people cross four bridges into the United States daily. It's one of the busiest border points in the world, said the area port director for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

"The Guard soldiers arrived just before one of our peak periods, spring break, which was followed immediately by Holy Week, when a lot of people cross this border. Getting those guys at that time was like having the cavalry come over the hill," said Ramon Juarez, the INS chief for the San Antonio district.

After weeks of waiting for the green light from officials in Washington, D.C., the National Guard had taken on its newest six-month mission in homeland defense. The 1,500 unarmed troops, primarily from the Army Guard, began assisting INS and U.S. Customs Service officials in eight states along the Canadian border, and in the four states along the Mexican border.

Maine, Vermont, New York, Michigan, North Dakota and Washington Guard aviators also began conducting surveillance flights along the Canadian border.

The Texas Guard mobilized 184 soldiers to work with the INS and 200 to work with Customs Service personnel at 20 points of entry along the winding, 800-mile border between New Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico.

Fifty-one Guard troops in Laredo helped reinforce an INS crew of 150 officers, to keep traffic flowing smoothly and avert any potential trouble.

MSG Bob Haskell is with the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office in Alexandria, Va



ON THE BORDER

Another 49 are working with some 300 Customs inspectors at two bridges that clear as many as 6,500 trailer trucks hauling cargo north every workday, said Customs Chief Inspector Benito Juarez. Between 4,000 and 5,000 come across the new World Trade Bridge built to accommodate the increased traffic generated since 1994 by the North American Free Trade Agreement, he said.

The National Guard troops brought relief to border officers who began working 12- to 16-hour shifts during a time of high alert, after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

The soldiers are now helping foreign citizens fill out arrival forms, and are inspecting car trunks for drugs, explosives and other contraband. They're helping to examine every

The National Guard troops brought relief to border officers who began working 12- to 16-hour shifts during a time of high alert after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

piece of luggage unloaded from lines of buses.

They're also helping to X-ray the thousands of trailer trucks, and their contents, coming from north and south of the borders every day.



SFC Jorge Garcia and U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service inspector Melissa Mercado inspect a vehicle at the Laredo, Texas, port of entry.



**Story and Photos by
MSG Bob Haskell**

assigned to the World Trade Bridge.

Most people coming into this country are law-abiding people, said Juarez. The challenge is to find the potential troublemakers without upsetting the innocent, and to keep border traffic and commerce flowing.

"We want to let people know that we may have become more vigilant, but it's still business as usual," he added.

The Guard's six-month border mission, expected to continue through September, reinforces customs and immigration services' roles in protecting America against terrorism until those services can hire and train more full-time employees, officials said.

As an example of the INS' workload alone, it issued nearly 70,000 permits to foreign nationals crossing into Laredo over one eight-day period, Juarez said.

What used to be a 20-minute delay before Sept. 11 became a four-hour crawl toward the U.S. border until the Guard arrived, he indicated.

Some of the Guard troops, including Ponce and Texas Army Guard SFC Jorge Garcia, have already gained experience by working U.S. Customs counterdrug operations that have been going on for about 10 years.

Garcia worked that detail near El Paso for five years before being reassigned to INS duty in Laredo.

He's seen marijuana wrapped and taped in plastic and stuffed into gas tanks that hold just enough gasoline to get a vehicle across the border, he said. Others simply set the bags of marijuana under the hood of their vehicle.

"It's amazing how they find other places to hide the contraband after they've been caught," said Garcia, who no longer looks only for drugs. "Now we're looking for everything."

That's what the Guard soldiers are finding. The stuff includes contraband cheese loaded into car trunks, and 18 grams of marijuana rolled into five cigars that were hidden in a speaker panel.

A customs inspector's dog sniffed out that stash, said SPCs Michael Young and Angel Siller, who removed the cigars.

The visible presence of the Guard soldiers is having the desired effect, Juarez said.

"Everyone was sensitive about militarizing the border," he said. "But when people drive across the border, they see these soldiers in their camouflage uniforms. Then they think that if the military is involved, this country must mean business." □

"Anti-terrorism and counterdrug operations go hand in hand," said Juarez, "because these people can hide bomb-making material and drugs in the same compartments."

The increased scrutiny has led to the seizure of 50 percent more illegal drugs this year, compared to last year, Customs officials report.

It's a personal matter for Texas Air Guard Master Sgt. Samuel Ponce, who has worked counterdrug operations with the USCS for 10 years.

A narcotics trafficker, who was high on drugs, murdered Ponce's younger brother, Carlos, in August 2000, Ponce said.

"Having troops in the right place at the right time to intercept this stuff is very important to me," said Ponce, who supervises the 15 Guard troops



SPC Oscar Mendez answers a Mexican citizen's question about the INS form that foreign visitors must complete before entering the United States.



Maude: Building dedication.

Maude was the senior-ranking service member killed in the Sept. 11 attack.

HUNDREDS of soldiers and civilian employees of Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe, and 7th Army in Germany recently honored **LTG Timothy J. Maude**, the 35-year Army veteran who was killed in the terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

The former U.S. Army deputy chief of staff for personnel was USAREUR's DCS for personnel from 1995 to 1998.

So it was a fitting tribute to dedicate Building 16 at Campbell Barracks, where Maude had his office, as the LTG Timothy J. Maude Center for Human Resources.

Maude was the senior-ranking service member killed in the Sept. 11 attack.

His wife, Teri, and daughters, Kathleen Koehler and Karen Maude, attended the dedication in Heidelberg. Together with GEN Montgomery C. Meigs, USAREUR's commander, they unveiled the monument that now stands near the entrance to the building.

"The name of the building isn't what's important," Meigs said. "It's the tradition in which the work performed inside will be done. Tim was a master of his trade. And I never

went to him with a problem that he couldn't solve."

In an animated speech, Teri Maude described her husband's easy-going personality.

"He'd be so embarrassed by all this," she said. He didn't see himself as a visionary or senior leader. He simply saw himself as a soldier. That's what he always wanted to be."

"He was formal, intense, concise and smarter than anyone in the room," said MG Dee A. McWilliams, the current USAREUR deputy chief of staff for personnel and installation management. "He was a tough, exacting boss, who made the people who

worked under him understand that the tasks with which we grappled were critical to the strength of our nation and our Army. He was truly a mentor. He genuinely wanted our input. He made us feel that we were valuable to the organization."

Maude served for more than 35 years in command and staff positions leading to his final assignment. The building named in his honor at Campbell Barracks houses USAREUR's offices for the deputy chief of staff for personnel.

A building at Camp Casey, Korea, was also named after Maude. The 2nd Infantry Division dedicated the LTG Timothy J. Maude Soldier Support Center in March. — *Michael Tolzmann, USAREUR Public Affairs Office*



Mrs. Teri Maude

THE phone rang and Maurice Roy, 11, picked it up. It was the editor of Heart & Soul Magazine, asking to speak to Maurice's mother, **Carolyn Roy**. He excitedly handed it over. He knew why they had called.

"The editor said, 'Congratulations. You've been selected as our cover model winner,'" Roy said. "He had called me before to say I was a finalist and I needed to send in another picture. I didn't expect anything to come of it."

Roy, who works at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency at Fort Belvoir, Va., was the winner of Heart & Soul's fifth annual Reader Cover Model Search.

"I'm very enthused about all aspects of physical training and fitness," said Roy. "And I want to help and inspire others to be physically fit."

She can relate to people who have difficulty staying fit. There was a time when she wasn't at all happy with herself. "I weighed almost 200 pounds and could only wear my clothes by stretching the elastic," she said. "I knew I had to do something about it."

She enrolled in a well-known diet program, but didn't exercise. A few months later, Roy began cardiovascular workouts at the post fitness center. That's where she met her husband, Paul.

"He said I was distracting him from his workout, and I thought, 'whatever,'" she said, rolling her eyes, as if to say, "typical pick-up line." At the same time, it made her feel good.

"I didn't see him for three months after that, and then he approached me again and saw I was working on the Nautilus equipment," she said. "He offered to help me with weight training, and that was our first get-together."

Soon after, Roy began attending her future husband's bodybuilding competitions.

"I got hooked," she said. "I was in the gym as much as he was, so I

figured, 'Why not try it?'"

Roy has since participated in some 30 competitions over four years, including the U.S. Armed Forces Championship, East Coast Bodybuilding Championship, Miss Galaxy, Miss Virginia and Miss Chesapeake.

At the DTRA, where the mission is developing chemical and biological warfare protection for soldiers, Roy, who holds a master's degree in engineering management, works to determine what role the organization can play in homeland security. "We're looking at how equipment designed for soldiers can be used by civilians," she said. — *SPC Rebecca Steed, Fort Belvoir PAO*

Roy was the winner of Heart & Soul's fifth annual Reader Cover Model Search.



Roy: Cover girl.

Catherine Phillips

SGT Ken McCooey



Members of the 10th Mountain Division's ski team carry American flags downhill as part of the sixth annual Hannes Schneider Meister Cup's opening ceremony.

Fort Drum, N.Y.

10th Mountain Div. Honors "Skimeister"

CURRENT members and World War II veterans of the 10th Mountain Division met earlier this year at Cranmore Mountain Resort in North Conway, N.H., to honor the Army's "skimeister," Hannes Schneider. In 1938 he gave division soldiers ski lessons in anticipation of mountain warfare in Europe.

Soldiers of the 10th Mtn. Div. have participated in the annual Hannes Schneider Meister Cup Race for the past six years, said Richard M. Wilson, a WWII veteran of the division's 85th Infantry Regiment and current member of its national association.

"Schnieder's 'Arlberg Technique' was the basis for all wartime ski training of 10th Mtn. Div. troops at Camp Hale, Colo.," he said. "This technique has now been modified for use

in today's military ski programs."

The annual cup race is a competitive, dual-slalom alpine event. This year, 10th Mtn. Div. soldiers placed 18th out of 33 teams.

"I'm already looking forward to participating in next year's event," said SGT Derek Wilkins, captain of the division's five-person team and a member of Headquarters and HQs. Company, 10th Aviation Brigade. "We all had a great time, and the WWII veterans were thrilled to have us here. They're the ones who make this event truly special."

"This event is all about friendship," said 87-year-old Nelson A. Bennett, a retired sergeant first class from the division's 87th Inf. Regt. "It also gives us veterans the chance to meet the soldiers who carry today's division colors. It's nice to see that these young soldiers love skiing as much as we veterans do."

MG David C. Meade (Ret.),

the division's commander from 1993 to 1995, said the division owes a lot to the veterans who founded the division and fought bravely in WWII, some of whom were present on the mountain slopes.

"It's an honor to be a part of this great event," Meade said. "The great men of the division's past laid the foundation, and today's soldiers will continue upholding the great division legacy." — SGT Kenneth L. McCooey, 10th Mountain Division Public Affairs Office

Fort Lee, Va.

Army Enters NASCAR

THE white, gold-edged star symbolic of the "Army of One" recruiting campaign can now be seen on the NASCAR racing circuit thanks to a partnership between the Army and Engineered Machined Products.

"Racing in many ways captures the essence of the 'Army of One' campaign," said MG Terry E. Juskowiak, commander of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center at Fort Lee, Va. "NASCAR drivers are one part of a team. And it's the synergistic effects of the team that achieve success and win on the race track."

He said NASCAR is one of this country's largest spectator sports, and the team's markings will therefore provide a lot of visibility for the Army.

Brian Vickers, the 18-year-old "Army of One" car driver, said he's proud to have the Army's star leading him under the checkered flag.

During a recent race in Richmond, Va., Fort Lee soldiers met with Vickers in the maintenance pit before the race.

"Vickers is a great example of today's youth," said CSM Bradley Peat, Fort Lee's quartermaster regimental sergeant major. "He's motivated to succeed, committed to his future and goal oriented."



Brian Vickers enters his "Army of One" car as SSG Richard Petersen, SGT Michael Peele and SPC Aaron Miller look on.

He is also focused on his education. I'm proud to have him representing the Army."

"I'm glad the Army joined the NASCAR family," Vickers said. "With the troops supporting me, the Army's star is sure to blaze a trail in NASCAR." — *SPC Jamie Carson, Fort Lee PAO*

Fort Hood, Texas

Texas Troops Practice Medevac

MOTIVATED to prevent a tragedy like the one depicted in the recent Hollywood film "Black Hawk Down," Fort Hood aviators and cavalry elements recently honed their skills in extracting soldiers from hostile situations in urban areas.

"'Black Hawk Down' inspired me," said MAJ Robert Mitchell, commander of the 507th Medical Company. "The scenes of wounded soldiers stuck on rooftops and in between buildings without the possibility of evacuation just stuck in my mind."

"In the movie, the task force commander wouldn't launch a medevac based on the situation he faced," Mitchell said. "I want my commander to have the option. We want to get our soldiers out, even when there's no landing zone."

Using a three-story building inside the post's urban combat site, Mitchell teamed up with CPT Luis Fuchu, commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, to recreate the October 1993 scene in Mogadishu, Somalia.

"This was some of the most realistic training I've had since I've been in the Army," said Fuchu, who lost a cousin in Mogadishu. "This exercise built up our confidence."

Under smoke and simulated machine-gun fire, one of

Mitchell's Black Hawk helicopters was airborne en route to "rescue" a "wounded" cavalry soldier.

It only took the crew a little over one minute to remove the simulated casualty.

"These guys are good," Fuchu said. "Knowing my guy was out of danger allowed me to continue with the battle."

Mitchell anticipates future combined-arms training exercises with the cavalry regiment.

"We will continue training together to save lives," he said. "We must be ready to face any situation in war and assure our commander that he can count on us if he needs a soldier rescued." — *SSG Dale Terry, 13th Corps Support Command PAO*

Livorno, Italy

Army Aids Palestinian Refugees

AS Secretary of State Colin Powell was promising humanitarian aid to Palestinians living in war-damaged West Bank refugee camps, workers at the Army's Combat Equipment Battalion in Livorno were already piling goods onto pallets.

Appearing on Fox News, Powell said the United States was authorizing the immediate shipment of approximately 800 family-size tents to help those who lost their homes in Jenin,

and enough water-purification equipment to take care of 10,000 people.

Making good on Powell's promise, CEB-LI workers headed out the Leghorn Army Depot gate with four truckloads of relief supplies bound for Pisa Airport, en route to Israel.

Alberto Chidini, CEB-LI's operations officer, said he received a call from the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance alerting the battalion to an urgent mission.

The next morning, before the rest of the world knew help was on the way, CEB-LI warehouse workers were pulling 800 tents, 1,600 five-gallon water jugs, 1,600 hygiene kits and a water-treatment unit out of storage and preparing the goods for air shipment.

"CEB-LI stores, maintains and ships OFDA humanitarian

supplies under an interagency agreement," said LTC John D. Lynch, CEB-LI commander. "It's a natural partnership. We are experts in prepositioned-materiel management, and OFDA needs the ability to react rapidly to crises."

Chidini said this was not the first time CEB-LI workers have spent their weekend helping people in dire straits. In the past few months they've sent relief supplies to Algerian flood victims and Afghan refugee camps.

"America's strength has many dimensions," said Lynch. "Here at CEB-LI, we provide combat-ready equipment for the Army's global power-projection mission — and we deliver humanitarian-relief supplies." — *Chuck Fick, Combat Equipment Group, Europe, PAO*



Soldiers from the 5th Cavalry Regiment provide security as a UH-60 medevac helicopter comes in to remove a simulated casualty during the training at Fort Hood.



CEB-LI workers complete shipping documents for equipment destined for Palestinian refugee camps.

A Search

A team from the Hawaii-based U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory journeyed to remote Kwajalein Atoll to search for the remains of airmen and marines missing since World War II.

for the

Missing

Story by Peter Rejcek • Photos by Steve Harding

BEN Carson knows his nine comrades are on Kwajalein. The marines, nearly forgotten by history, were executed by Japanese troops six decades ago and are buried somewhere on the distant Pacific atoll.

But where?

Finding the answer to that question fell to Dr. Greg Fox and his team from the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii. CILHI is a mixture of about 250 Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force personnel and Department of Army civilians tasked with locating, recovering and identifying the remains of U.S. service members from around the globe.

While its mission is heavily concentrated in Southeast Asia and on the Vietnam War period, CILHI also goes after service members lost during World War II, the

Korean War and the Cold War.

That mission brought them to Kwajalein in early January, to an empty field across the street from a memorial Japanese cemetery at the far western end of the three-mile-long island. Now home to America's Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Test Site, in February 1944 the atoll was a major Japanese outpost and the focus of an air, land and sea assault by U.S. forces.

The story of the fallen and forgotten marines, however, goes back almost another two years. On Aug. 17 and 18, 1942, 222 Marine commandos, known as Raiders, under Col. Evans Carlson staged an amphibious assault on Makin Atoll in the former Gilbert Islands (now the Republic of Kiribati), several hundred miles southeast of Kwajalein.

The raid was intended as a morale booster for the nation, which had yet to catch up to the Axis powers in military might. The marines, carried deep into enemy territory in two submarines, later returned to a hero's welcome in Hawaii. In hindsight, the raid caused

little real damage, and prompted the Japanese to fortify their installations across the Pacific, making the later U.S. campaign to retake the region far more difficult.

The attack on Makin left nearly a score of Carlson's Raiders dead and another dozen missing. According to military records in the National Archives, the records of a postwar war-crimes tribunal in Guam, and testimonials from Japanese officers and Marshallese witnesses, nine of those MIAs probably died on Kwajalein.

"This is a strange feeling. I never thought I would be standing on the ground where these guys got the ultimate punishment," said Carson, 78, a vigorous man with a friendly round face and sharp eyes behind glasses that



More on Kwaj!

For more about living on Kwajalein, see our July issue.

Peter Rejcek is the associate editor of the Reagan Test Site's Kwajalein Hourglass newspaper.



(Above) Louis Zamperini, a WWII prisoner of the Japanese on Kwajalein, looks on as Dr. Greg Fox (center) and Dr. Karl Kuttruff, site manager for the U.S. and Marshallese governments, examine a newly exposed part of the site.

(Right) 2LT Virgil A. Tramelli, who appears third from the right, lower row, in this wartime photo, was probably executed on Kwajalein along with his crew. Businessman Jim Tramelli journeyed to Kwajalein to help in the search for the aviators' remains.

seem a little too big. Carson was a member of that 1942 raid — and has been one of its biggest critics ever since. He's long campaigned against what he calls the "Hollywoodization" of the raid and has been a driving force in the recovery of the Makin Raiders on Kwajalein.

Carson was flown to Kwajalein in January by National Geographic, which is producing an episode about CILHI for an eight-part TV series called "Riddles of the Dead."





"We don't come up empty in our worldwide recovery missions very often."

The long and painstaking search required the CILHI team to move several tons of sand and soil, all of which had to be carefully screened for human remains.

Accompanying Carson was Louis Zamperini, a 1936 Olympian who ended up on Kwajalein as a prisoner of war in 1943 after spending more than a month adrift at sea when his Army Air Forces B-24 was shot down over the Pacific. During his 42-day incarceration — "the worst 42 days of my life," as he tells it — he saw the names of the nine marines scribbled on the wall of his prison cell. Zamperini memorized those names before being shipped to Tokyo as a war trophy, spared the sword thanks to his Olympic celebrity.

"Those names were like family," Zamperini said.

The CILHI excavation, in fact, even drew the interest of a relative of one of the missing servicemen. St. Louis businessman Jim Tramelli traversed the Pacific in hopes the team would also uncover the remains of his uncle, 2nd Lt. Virgil A. Tramelli, a B-24 navigator who, along with his crew, may also have been executed on Kwaj. CILHI historians believe as many as three B-24 crews may have perished here, executed like the marines, before the 1944 U.S. invasion.

"This has been a big part of my life," said Tramelli, who spent his one week on a tropical island shoveling dirt and sifting through rocks, hoping to bring home his uncle after nearly 60 years. Tramelli has spent more than a decade researching every



CILHI team member SSG Matt Caster sifts dirt excavated from the search site through a mesh screen, which will trap even the smallest artifacts and bone fragments.

known aspect of his uncle's life and death.

"I know he is here, because I've read it," he said. "It's embedded in me."

But the hopes of Carson, Zamperini, Tramelli and others, combined with the meticulous research and excavation by the CILHI team, were not enough to find the missing American servicemen. After more than two months of scraping, digging, shoveling and sifting through tons of earth — even digging into roads — excavators only found a smattering of remains and a handful of artifacts. Exhausted and out of options, the team called it quits in mid-March.

"We don't come up empty in our worldwide recovery missions very often," said Fox, the lead archaeologist on the team. "It was disappointing."

But the book is not closed on the Makin Raiders just yet. Fox said CILHI historians will return to the archives to see if they can ferret out any additional clues. After all, it took CILHI three tries before it located the remains of the 19 dead marines left on Makin Atoll after the raid. The mass grave, it turned out, was underneath a road, less than 100 meters from an earlier excavation site.

Those remains were repatriated to Hawaii in December 1999. All of the remains were identified by CILHI. Six of the marines were sent home for burial in the summer of 2001 to locations decided on by the individual families. The other 13 marines were buried in Arlington National cemetery in August of 2001.

Fox hopes for a similar outcome with the Marine Raiders buried on Kwaj.

"We spent considerable resources on it, and nobody likes to quit, myself included," he said. "My organization is very persistent."

And Carson, undeterred, added: "There's still hope." □



The Corps Engages: Disaster Recovery

The Flood of 1882

WHEN the Mississippi River floods of 1882 forced thousands from their homes, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers steamboats ferried scores of people to safety and delivered tons of desperately needed supplies to stranded refugees. That effort marked the beginning of the Corps' formal disaster-recovery efforts.

In the decades that followed, USACE responded to dozens of other disasters, some of which were among the greatest catastrophes in U.S. history.

It was a proposal by BG Horatio G. Wright, chief of engineers, that spurred Congress to pass a disaster-recovery bill that allowed USACE to use its boats to deliver supplies to the 1882 Mississippi River flood victims.



San Francisco 1906

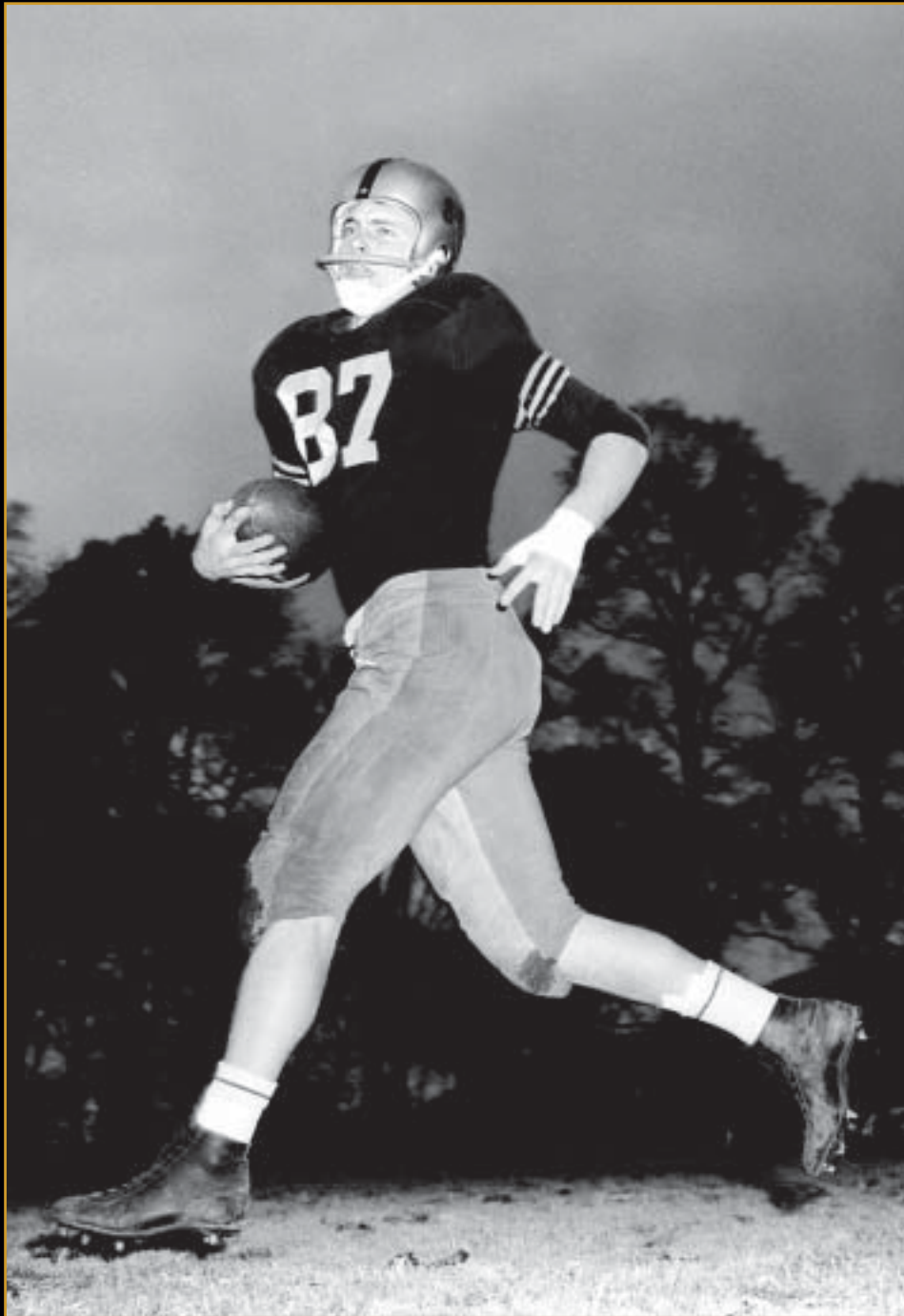


In 1906 the Corps called on its engineer troops to assist with disaster-recovery efforts following the San Francisco earthquake. The massive quake — measuring 8.3 on the Richter scale — struck the city in the early hours of April 18. Roused from their beds at nearby Fort Mason, 150 men of USACE's 1st Battalion were the first troops to enter San Francisco and they quickly began patrolling the devastated city to keep order.

Texas City, 1947

On April 16, 1947, a freighter loaded with 2,400 tons of ammonium nitrate exploded in the port of Texas City, Texas, with a blast so intense that vibrations were felt 65 miles away. Corps personnel helped remove the dead and injured, drove emergency vehicles, set up kitchens for relief workers, patrolled the harbor and maintained an emergency-communications network. Today, disaster relief remains an integral part of USACE's mission.





WILLIAM S. CARPENTER JR.

In 1958 Bill Carpenter became known as the “Lonely End” in Earl “Red” Blaik’s revolutionary offensive alignment. The system caught the nation’s fancy. Carpenter was elected to the College Hall of Fame in 1982. While at the academy, he also lettered in lacrosse. He retired in 1992 as a lieutenant general.

